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1 140 180
(11) (A) No.

(45) ISSUED 830125

(52) CLASS 273-99
C.R. CL. 273-127

(51) INT. CL. A63B 71/00
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(19) (CA) CANADIAN PATENT (12)

(54) DRIVEWAY HOCKEY NET

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(21) APPLICATION No. 357,472

(22) FILED 800801

NO. OF CLAIMS 5

This invention relates to a back-stop structure useful in conjunction with playing ball hockey and other games in a driveway. More particularly, it relates to a screen which may be installed in the doorway of a garage to provide a back-stop behind a hockey goal or the like and which may be stored out of the way but close at hand.

The popularity of hockey, together with the relative unavailability of ice rinks for frequent informal games, has led to developments of a variety of the game known as ball 10 hockey or road hockey which is commonly played with a ball instead of a puck on streets or in driveways. Frequently such games employ one or more portable goals which are attacked or defended by teams respectively, or which may be used simply for shooting and goalie practice.

The problems of such informal games are that there is some danger in playing on the roadway and the ball frequently misses the goal and rolls a long way off thereby interrupting the game until it is retrieved. Therefore, as an alternative, the game is sometimes played in driveways using a garage as 20 a sort of back-stop or barrier behind the goal.

This arrangement also presents problems. If the garage door is left opened, the ball strikes the car and leaves marks on it, or else becomes lodged in the garage beneath the car or behind articles stored therein where it is difficult to retrieve. On the other hand, if the garage door is closed, the ball striking the door or other parts of the garage creates a seemingly incessant noise and leaves dents or scuff marks on the finish of the garage or the door.

It is the object of this invention to provide a 30 back-stop for a ball hockey goal and the like which avoids losing the ball and eliminates the noise and damage that accompanies this variety of game when played in a residential driveway.

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It is also the object of this invention or provide a back-stop which is relatively light, compact, inexpensive, and easy to install and yet can be stored out of the way when not in use and yet close at hand when it is needed.

These objects and other advantages are sought to be achieved by providing a back-stop for ball hockey and the like comprising a screen adapted to cover the opening of a garage doorway and having means to attach the top and sides edges of the screen to the doorway frame and the adjacent edge 10 of the door respectively in the operative position and having means to mount the screen on the back side of the door in the stored position by means which attach the edges of the screen to the door at points adjacent to the respective edges thereof on the back side. In the preferred embodiment, the invention comprises a screen made of a net, roughly the size of a garage door, and attaching means which comprise a hook and eye fastener on the edge of the net and the doorway and the edge of the door respectively, which attaching means additionally comprise elastic tensioning means connecting the fastener to the edges 20 of the screen.

Thus, the garage door may be opened and the screen stretched across the doorway to provide a back-stop and then hooked on the back of the door in a stored position where it can remain close at hand but out of the way whether the door is opened or closed.

The invention can be best understood by the following description of one embodiment thereof with reference to the drawings in which:

Figure 1 illustrates the inside of a garage having 30 a doorway and an overhead door in the open position and a screen covering the doorway as a back-stop for a hockey net;

Figure 2 illustrates details of the attaching means by which the net is attached to the doorway and door.

Figure 1 illustrates a portion of a garage 2, having a front wall 4, viewed from the inside looking out in the direction of a driveway not shown.

The front wall 4 has a doorway opening 6 with a frame 8 which may be of any normal dimensions for a conventional one, two or three car garage.

10 Mounted on the frame at the sides of the doorway and extending vertically up and horizontally back adjacent to the ceiling of the garage are two tracks 10 and 12 on respective sides of the doorway, which tracks support and guide a pair of wheels 14 and 16 respectively. These wheels support and transport a garage door 18, which in the illustration of Figure 1, is rigid, rectangular and planar. It might, however, be structured in other conventional way such as a series of hinged-connected panels.

20 It will be understood that the door is in the opened position and can be moved manually by pulling down the lower edge 20 until the door covers the doorway opening in which position the lower face 22, as illustrated, becomes the back side or inside of the door in the closed position.

In front of the doorway is illustrated a typical 26 hockey goal 24 facing the driveway and defended by a player with a hockey stick 28.

As illustrated in Figure 1, the doorway of the garage is substantially filled by a screen 30 positioned in the plane of the doorway and extending substantially over the entire area thereof. In the preferred embodiment, this screen 30 is made substantially or partially of netting, although other materials might be used such as canvas, although ideally they should be light and flexible.

As can be seen, this screen provides a back-stop behind the hockey goal which will block any ball which is shot past the goal or the player without the usual noise or damage to the garage door.

The screen is stretched across the doorway and fastened by attaching means at locations 32, 34, 36 and 38 on the sides and 40, 42, 44, and 46 along the top. There may, of course, be more or fewer attaching locations, depending on matters of choice or design.

10 The attaching means includes a number of eyes such as 48 in Figure 2, mounted on the doorway frame at locations 32-38 and along the back side near the lower edge 20 of the garage door at locations 40-46. The rest of the attaching means comprises a hook 50 fastened to the edge of the screen by a flexible elastic tensioning connector 52. The flexibility and elasticity of the connector will serve both to stretch the screen more or less taut and will also avoid the necessity for precisely matching the dimensions of the screen to the size of the doorway.

20 While the screen is effective as a back-stop in the operative position illustrated in Figure 1 to stretch across the doorway, it would of course be a nuisance and hinder easy access and normal use of the garage. Therefore, in order to permit storage of the screen where it is both handy and available for the next time it is used, and yet will be out of the way when it is not in use, a series of eyes are positioned at locations 54, 56, 58, 60, 62 and 64 on the back side of the door near the peripheral edges thereof so that the hooks which attach at locations 32, 34, 36 and 38 in the operative position can be attached to the respective hooks 54, 56, 62 and 54 in the stored position. The hooks 66 and 68, unused in the operative position, can be attached to the eyes at 58 and 60 respectively.

Thus, when the game is over and the net is no longer in use, the hooks of the attaching means formerly secured at 32, 34, 36 and 38 can be moved to the corresponding eyes on the back of the door (as well as hooks 66 and 68) and the screen will be attached entirely to the back side of the door. Because the hooks at 40, 42, 44 and 46 are on the back of the door in both the operative and stored positions, they do not have to be moved.

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Although some sagging of the net may occur in the overhead position, proper placement of the eyes on the back of the door and corresponding dimensions of the screen will, with the aid of the elastic connectors 52, keep the screen sufficiently taut that it will conform more or less to the plane of the door where it is out of the way and substantially out of sight whether the garage door is opened or closed.

Equally as important, it is close at hand and can be easily installed in the operative position again when it is needed.

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While the embodiment illustrated contemplates a planar overhead garage door, the invention is applicable, with perhaps minor appropriate modifications, to garages with doors that open to either side or which are composed of a series of hinged panels.

Indeed a similar arrangement might be adapted to a garage door which swings open on hinges.

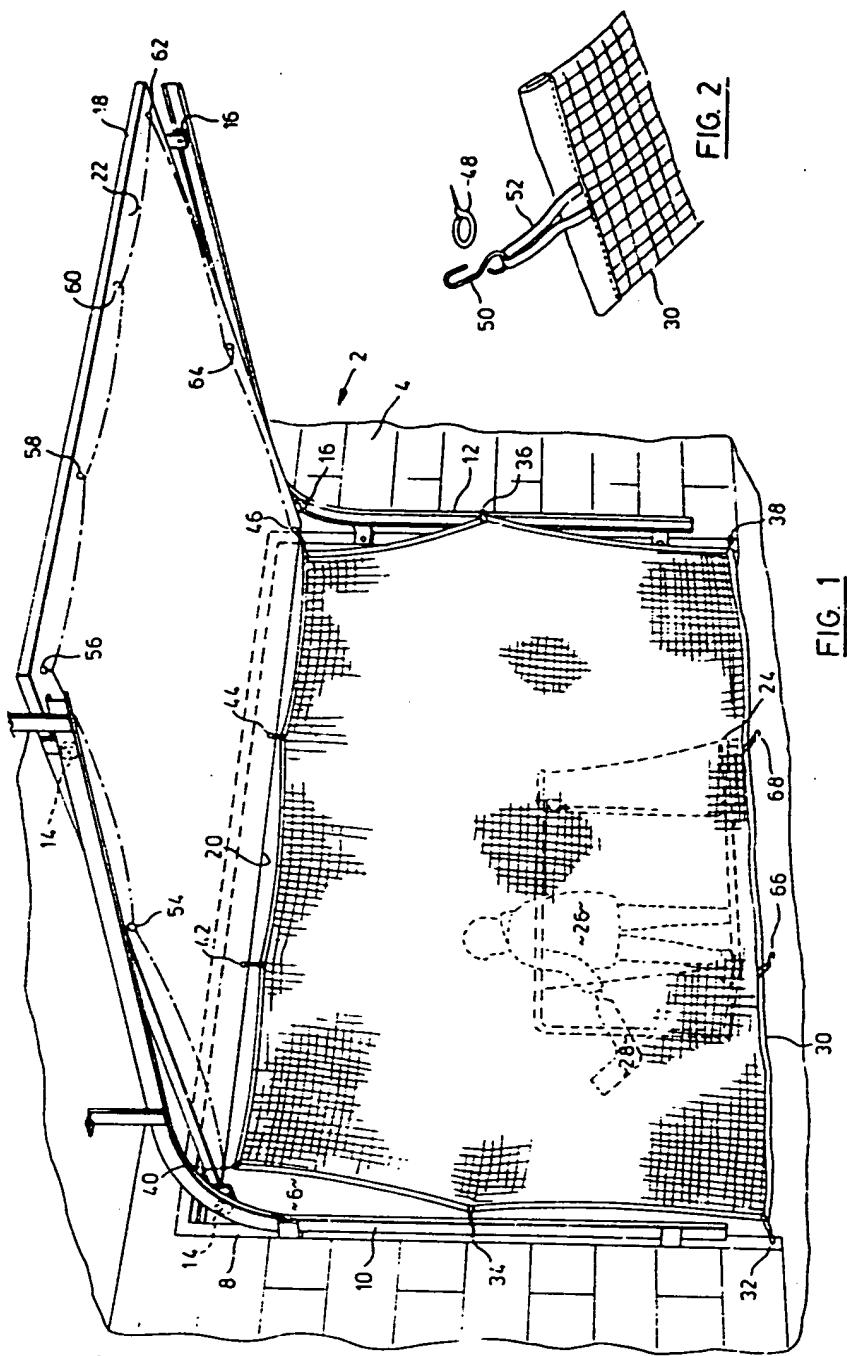
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Thus, while the illustrated and described embodiment is preferred, various modifications in the design and application might be employed without departing from the inventive concept herein. Furthermore, although the invention contemplates utility in connection with ball hockey, it is also useful in connection with games of basketball or catch frequently played in driveways.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A back-stop for a garage doorway, said doorway having a side and a top, and a door movable between an opened position out of said doorway and a closed position in said doorway, said door having a back side facing inward in the closed position, said back-stop comprising a screen movable between an operative position (in said doorway) and a stored position (out of said doorway) having a top, bottom and side edges and adapted to extend over substantially the entire area of the doorway in the operative position, means for locating said screen in the operative position comprising means for attaching the side edges of said screen adjacent to the sides of said doorway and the top edge of said screen adjacent to the top of said doorway, means for locating said screen in the stored position comprising means for attaching the top, bottom and side edges of said screen to the back of said door adjacent to the peripheral edges thereof.
2. A back-stop as claimed in claim 1 in which said screen comprises a net.
3. A back-stop as claimed in claim 1 in which attaching means comprises a hook and eye means in which one of said hook and eye is attached to the edge of said screen and the other attached to the respective sides and top of said doorway and the back side of said door.
4. A back-stop as claimed in claim 3 in which said attaching means comprises elastic tensioning means connecting said attaching means to said screen.
5. A back-stop as claimed in claim 4 in which one edge of said screen is attached, in the operative position, to said door adjacent the edge thereof in closest proximity to said door in the opened position of said door.

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